

SFD Dispatch Policy and Guideline Manual

Section Title: Glossary

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SFD DISPATCHER'S GLOSSARY

- **Abrasion** – An injury caused by scraping or rubbing of skin against a rough surface.
- **ALS** – Advanced Life Support, usually refers to paramedic level of emergency care.
- **All Clear (FIRE)** – All occupants are out of the building or no life threat exists.
- **All Clear (HOSP)** – Fire alarm at the hospital has been determined not to be an emergency.
- **Anaphylactic Shock** – A suddenly developing condition caused by hypersensitivity of the body to foreign materials, drugs, bites or stings.
- **Aneurysm** – A blood filled dilation of blood vessel resulting from a defect of the blood vessel wall.
- **Angina** – Chest pain characterized by a sense of severe constriction in the chest. The pain normally goes away in about 3-5 minutes.
- **Apnea** – Absence of respiration.
- **Asphyxia** – Suffocation.
- **Asthma** – A respiratory condition caused by bronchiolar spasm preventing gas exchange.
- **Avulsion** – A forcible separation or tearing away of a body part or tissue.
- **Backdraft** – An explosion caused by rapid burning of heated gases and the introduction of oxygen when air is admitted to a building heavily charged by smoke from a fire which has depleted the oxygen.
- **Bradycardia** – Slow heart beat, below 60 beats per minute
- **Cardiac** – Pertaining to the heart.
- **Cerebral** – Pertaining to the brain.
- **CHEMTREC** – Chemical Transportation Emergency Center. Provides a 24 hour data base on chemicals. 800-424-9300
- **Chimney Bomb (FIRE)** – Dry powder package of extinguishing agent dropped from the top of a chimney to extinguish a flue fire.
- **CHF** – Congestive Heart Failure – This occurs when failure of the heart muscle causes fluid to accumulate in the tissues.
- **Command Post** – A location (vehicle, building) where the officer in charge of the incident performs the functions of Command and can meet with other resource personnel or commanders from different agencies.
- **COPD** – Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease – Refers to conditions such as asthma or emphysema.

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- **Customer** – The person that receives our services. A dispatcher will need to know and understand the customer. The dispatcher will also need to become customer focused.
- **CVA** – Cerebrovascular Accident (stroke) – Blockage or rupture of a blood vessel in the brain.
- **Cyanosis** – Bluish or purplish discoloration of the skin due to the lack of oxygen.
- **Diabetes** – Disease characterized by the inadequate use of insulin in the body resulting in too much sugar in the blood.
- **DNR** – Do Not Resuscitate – An order signed by the patient and the doctor giving an order not to perform life saving procedures.
- **DOA** – Dead on arrival
- **DOT** – Department of Transportation
- **DTs** – Delirium Tremens – Visual and auditory hallucinations from excessive use of alcohol. This usually occurs during detoxifications.
- **ETOH** – Ethyl alcohol - Alcohol intoxication.
- **Exposures** – Property or structures in the vicinity of a fire that are in jeopardy of being damaged.
- **Extrication** – Using rescue equipment (Jaws of Life) to free an occupant from a vehicle or machinery.
- **FDC** – Location of the fire department connection that the fire department uses to supply water to a sprinkler system. (Also may be called Siamese)
- **FDC Location** – Location of the fire department connection
- **Febrile** – Seizure due to fever.
- **Fracture** – Broken bone.
- **Hypertension** – High blood pressure.
- **Hyperthermia** – Prolonged exposure to heat.
- **Hypoglycemia** – Low blood sugar.
- **Hypothermia** – Prolonged exposure to cold.
- **IC** – Incident Command.
- **KNOX BOX** – A locked box that is located on a property usually at a main door or gate containing keys to the property.
- **Laceration** – A wound or cut in the skin.
- **LOC** – Loss of consciousness.
- **MI** – Myocardial Infarction (heart attack) damage or death of the heart muscle.
- **NTSB** – National Transportation Safety Board - Government agency that investigates aircraft and railroad incidents

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- **Placard** – A diamond shaped sign mounted on trains and semi trucks as a warning of hazardous materials carried.
- **POV** – Personal owned vehicle.
- **Rekindle** – An instance where the fire department is called back to a location where fire has been extinguished because of reigniting due to latent heat, sparks, or embers.
- **Riser** – A water main that supplies fire suppression sprinklers on a property.
- **SOB** – Shortness of breath.
- **Soul** – Term used to describe an occupant in an aircraft.
- **Syncope** – Fainting.
- **Team** – A group of people pooling their skills, talents, and knowledge to tackle complex problems and come up with effective, permanent solutions.
- **Trauma** – An injury inflicted by some physical force
- **Triage** – A system of setting priorities in providing care to multiple patients.
- **Under Control** – A fire sufficiently surrounded and quenched so it no longer threatens destruction of additional property and has reached a phase where overhauling can begin.